

SPRING TURKEY

1991

HUNTING REGULATIONS
STATE OF MONTANA



General Regulations

These regulations apply to all legally described Spring Turkey Gobbler Hunting Districts and Areas.

Spring Season — April 13 - May 5, 1991.

Licenses — The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices and most license agents throughout the state.

	Res.	Nonres.
Spring Season Turkey License.....	\$3.00	\$13.00
Conservation License (required prerequisite *)	\$2.00	\$ 2.00
Upland Game Bird License (required prerequisite *)	\$6.00	\$53.00

* The resident Sportsman's License, the nonresident Big Game Combination License or the nonresident Deer Combination License serves as the prerequisite license for both the conservation license and the Upland Game Bird License.

Montana residents 12-14 years of age, 62 years of age and older or holder's of a Disabled Resident Conservation License, need only the conservation license and a valid turkey license to hunt turkey. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt turkey.

Limit — One wild, male turkey per spring season. Turkey license must be stamped "SPRING".

Evidence of Sex (Required Spring Season Only) — No person shall transport within the state any turkey taken during the spring turkey gobbler season unless a leg and foot are left naturally attached for evidence of sex. The leg and foot shall remain attached at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal residence of the processor or a processing facility.

1. Field dressed gobblers being transported from the place they were taken to a permanent residence or processing facility must have one complete leg and foot naturally attached.
2. Processing facility means a site removed from the field that has permanent facilities for the final preparation of the bird prior to consumption, i.e. commercial locker, ranch or permanent camp.

Tagging — Immediately after harvesting the wild turkey, cut out the proper month and day from the license and affix to the turkey so it remains secure and visible at all times.

Means of Taking — Wild turkey may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge; long, recurve or compound bow and arrow; and rifle or handgun, except in Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Chouteau, Missoula and Ravalli counties, and deer/elk hunting districts 200, 201, 202, and 291, where only shotguns or long, recurve or compound bow and arrow may be used.

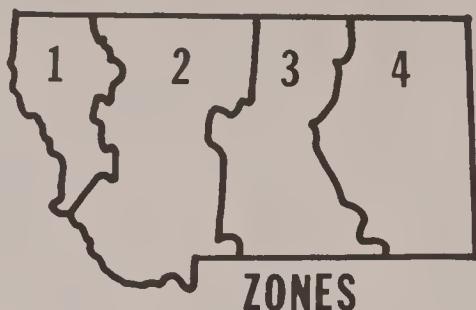
Hunting Hours — One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Restriction — Baiting prohibited. "Baiting" shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain so as to constitute a lure or attraction. Nothing shall prohibit the taking of birds in or over standing crops or harvested cropland or grains scattered as a result of agricultural harvesting.

Landowner Permission — Sportsmen pursuing spring turkey gobblers should secure permission from landowners before hunting on private property.

Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

The following tables show actual sunrise and sunset hours including adjustment for daylight savings time. Sportsmen are reminded the spring turkey gobbler hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.



	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone 4	
April	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
11-15	6:51	8:23	6:45	8:13	6:33	7:58	6:21	7:54
16-20	6:42	8:31	6:36	8:20	6:24	8:04	6:12	8:01
21-25	6:32	8:38	6:27	8:26	6:15	8:11	6:02	8:08
26-30	6:24	8:45	6:19	8:33	6:07	8:17	5:53	8:15
May								
1- 5	6:15	8:52	6:11	8:40	5:59	8:24	5:45	8:22

Zone 1—Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties.

Zone 2—Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

Zone 3—Blaine, Bighorn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties

Zone 4—Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Treasure, Wibaux and Valley Counties.

General Spring Turkey Hunting Areas

The areas listed below are open to all sportsmen who hold a valid 1991 Spring Turkey License. Special permits are not required in the areas listed below.

Carter, Custer Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, McCone, Petroleum, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Treasure and Wibaux counties in their entirety;

AND

Those portions of Wheatland and Golden Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Judith Gap, then south along Highway 191 to its junction with Highway 12, then east along Highway 12 to Emory Road which is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the junction of Highway 12 and State Route 2 near Lavina, then north 9.6 miles on Emory Road to Horsethief Road, then east 1.9 miles on Horsethief Road to the Musselshell/Golden Valley County line, then north along said line to the Fergus County line, then west and south along said line to its junction with Highway 191, one mile north of Judith Gap, then south to Judith Gap, the point of beginning;

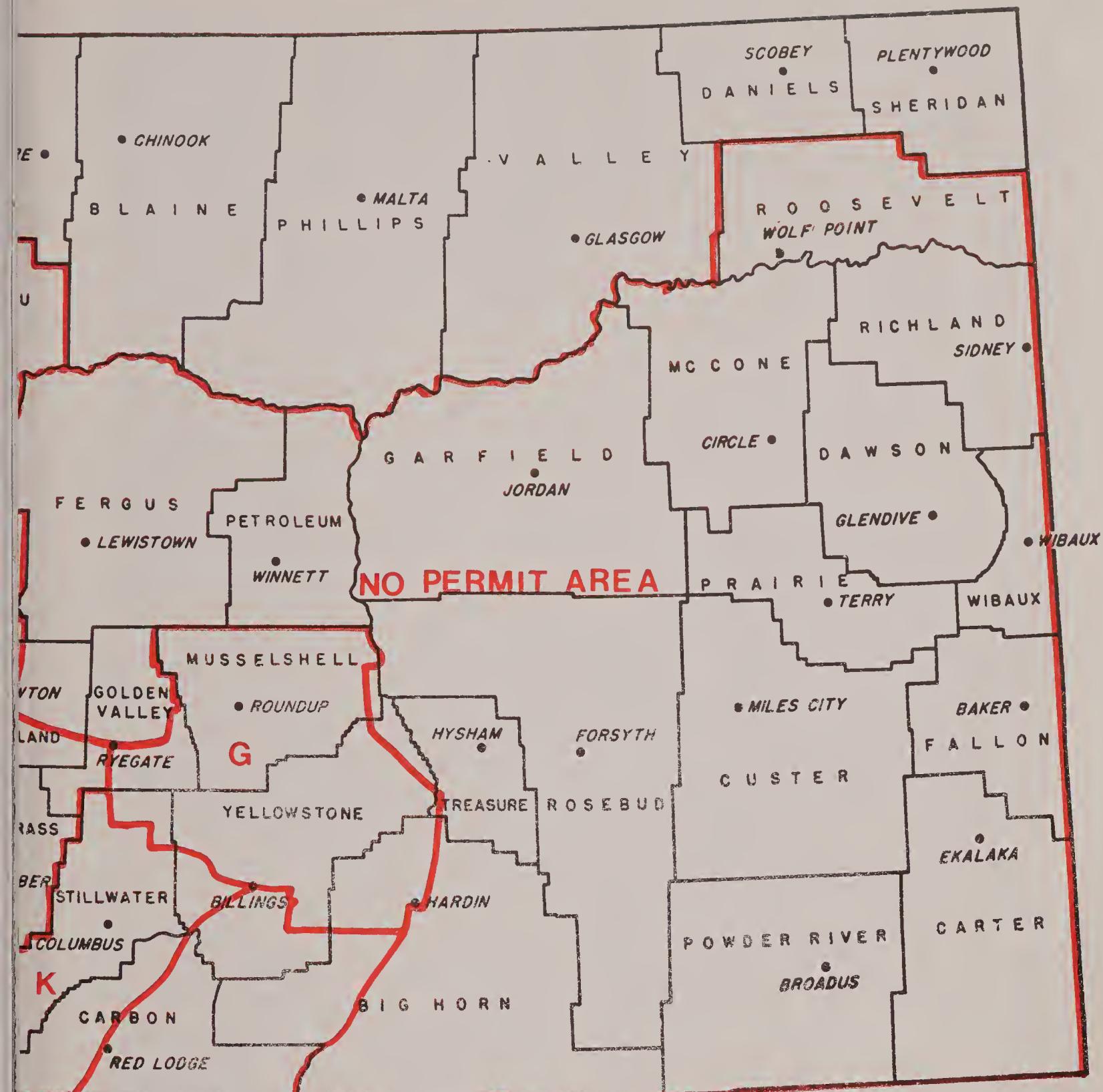
AND

Those portions of Musselshell and Yellowstone counties bounded on the west by Melstone-Custer road between Melstone and the Yellowstone River Bridge at Custer, on the south by the Yellowstone River from the Yellowstone River Bridge at Custer downstream to the Bighorn River, and on the north by Highway 12 from Melstone east to the Rosebud County line;

AND

Those portions of Bighorn County lying east of the Bighorn River.

Season Hunting Districts



ed as a guide only—please refer to the legal descriptions for actual boundaries.

1991 SPRING TURKEY—LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

AREA A—West Clark Fork: That portion of Sanders County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Sanders-Mineral County line meets the Idaho border, then easterly along said county line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down ridge to Clark Fork River and mouth of Thompson River, then northeasterly up the Thompson River to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up the West Fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up the North Fork to Forest Road 7671 and Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mt. Headley, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermilion River Divide, then northerly along the Vermilion-Thompson River Divide to the Sanders-Lincoln County line, then westerly along said county line to the Idaho border, then south and southeasterly along said border to the Sanders-Mineral County line, the point of beginning.

AREA B—East Clark Fork: Those portions of Sanders and Flathead counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Thompson River County Road meets U.S. Highway 2, then southerly along said road to the Shroder Creek Road and U.S. Forest Service Trail 137, then easterly along said road and trail to Trail 132, then southeasterly to Trail 290, then along said trail to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then southerly along said boundary to the Sanders County line, then westerly along said county line to the Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then westerly along said divide to U.S. Forest Service Trail 242, then northerly along said trail to the Clark Fork River, then westerly up the Clark Fork River to the U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then northerly along said trail to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Patricks Knob, then westerly along said trail to the Miller Creek Loop Road, then west on said road to Combpest Peak, then westerly along U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 to the Mineral-Sanders County line, then westerly along said county line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down ridge to the Clark Fork River and mouth of the Thompson River then northeasterly up the Thompson River to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up the West Fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up the North Fork to Forest Service Road 7671 and Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mt. Headley, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermilion River Divide, then northerly to the Lincoln-Sanders County Line, then easterly along said county line to U.S. Highway 2, then easterly along said highway to the Thompson River County Road, the point of beginning.

AREA C—Flathead Valley: That portion of Flathead and Lake counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and Montana Secondary 206 in Columbia Heights, then easterly along U.S Highway 2 to the South Fork of the Flathead River, then up the South Fork to Frank Creek, then up Frank Creek to Forest Trail 51, then up said trail to Doris Mountain on the Swan Divide, then southerly along said divide to Forest Trail 10 in Section 36, T26N R18W, then southwesterly along said trail to Forest Road 9508, the Six Mile Road, then southerly along said road to Montana Route 83, then southerly along said route to Forest Road 10229, the Porcupine Creek Road, then westerly and southerly along said road to the south boundary of T26N, the 6th Standard Parallel North, then west along said township line to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then north and west along said boundary to the east shore of Flathead Lake, then north and west along the shore of Flathead Lake to the Sommers Fishing Access Site and U.S. Highway 93, then northerly along said highway to Montana Route 40, then easterly along said route to U.S. Highway 2, then easterly along said highway to the junction of Montana Secondary 206, the point of beginning.

AREA D—Hunting District 200/201/202 — Superior: Those portions of Mineral, Missoula and Sanders Counties lying within the following boundaries: Beginning at Evaro, then south along U.S. Highway 93 to its junction with Interstate Highway 90, then northwesterly along said highway to the Fish Creek exit; then south up the Fish Creek Road 343 to U.S. Highway 12; then west along said highway to Lolo Pass; then northwesterly along the Montana-Idaho border to Lookout Pass; then northerly along the Montana-Idaho border to the Mineral-Sanders county line; then southeasterly along said county line to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Combpest Peak; then east on said trail to the Miller Creek Loop Forest Service Road; then east along said road to its junction with

U.S. Forest Service Trail 415; then south and east along said trail to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714; then south on said trail to the Clark Fork River; then downstream along said river to the Cascade Campground; then south along Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ninemile Seigel Creek Divide; then easterly along said divide to the Flathead-Clark Fork Divide; then southeasterly along said divide to Evaro, the point of beginning.

AREA E—Hunting District 291 — East Garnet Range: Those portions of Granite and Powell counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Helmville, then southeast along the old county road to Nevada Creek Dam, then across the dam to State Route 141, then southeast along said route to Avon, then westerly along U.S. Highway 12 to Garrison, then westerly on Interstate 90 to Route 271 (Drummond-Helmville Road), then northerly on said road to Helmville, the point of beginning.

AREA F—Portions of Ravalli and Missoula counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Miller Creek Road and U.S. Highway 93, then southeasterly along the Miller Creek Road to the Bitterroot-Rock Creek Divide at Holloman Saddle, then south along said divide to Forest Service Trail No. 105 near the head of Rye Creek, then westerly along said trail to its junction with the Rye Creek Road, then southwesterly along the Rye Creek Road (Number 75) to its junction with U.S. Highway 93, then northerly along said highway to its junction with Tin Cup Creek, then westerly up Tin Cup Creek to the Montana-Idaho border, then northerly along the Montana-Idaho border to the Ravalli County line, then easterly along said county line to U.S. Highway 93, then north along U.S. Highway 93 to its junction with the Miller Creek Road, the point of beginning.

AREA G—Portions of Big Horn, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater and Yellowstone counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Billings, then northeast on State Route 302 to Molt, then north and west on the Molt-Rapelje Road to Rapelje, then north on the Rapelje-Ryegate Road to U.S. Highway 12 at Ryegate, then easterly along said highway to Emory Road which is 1/2 mile east of the junction of Hwy. 12 and State Route 3 near Lavina, then north 9.6 miles on Emory Road to Horsethief Road, then east 1.9 miles on Horsethief Road to the Musselshell County line, then north and east along said county line to the Musselshell River, then south along the Musselshell River to Highway 12, then west along Highway 12 to the Melstone-Custer Road, then south and southeasterly along the Melstone-Custer Road to the Yellowstone River Bridge at Custer, then easterly down the Yellowstone River to the Bighorn River, then south up the Bighorn River to the Crow Indian Reservation boundary, then westerly along said boundary to the Old Hardin Road approximately 6 miles southeast of Billings, then northeasterly along said road to Billings, the point of beginning.

AREA H—Portions of Toole and Pondera counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Sweetgrass, then westerly and southerly along the Toole County line to the Pondera County line, then westerly and southerly along said county line to its junction with U.S. Highway 89, then southerly along U.S. Highway 89 to its junction with the Pondera County line, then southerly and easterly along said county line to I-15, then northerly along I-15 to Sweetgrass, the point of beginning.

AREA I—Chouteau County in its entirety.

AREA J—Portion of Deer, Elk, and Bear Hunting District 212 lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Racetrack Creek and the power line, then westerly and northerly up Racetrack Creek through Racetrack Pass to Trail No. 63, then northerly along said trail to its junction with Rock Creek, then northeasterly along Rock Creek to its junction with the power line, then southerly along said power line to its junction with Racetrack Creek, the point of beginning.

AREA K—Portions of Carbon, Stillwater and Yellowstone counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and the Montana-Wyoming State Line, then northeast along said highway to U.S. Interstate Highway 90, then east along said Interstate to Billings, then west and north along State Route 302 to Molt, then north and west along the Molt-Rapelje road to Rapelje, then north along the Rapelje-Ryegate road to the Stillwater County Line, then west and south along said line to the Park County Line, then east along said line to the Carbon County Line, then south along said line to the Montana-Wyoming State Line, then east along said line to U.S. Highway 212, the point of beginning.

Spring Turkey Gobbler S



Spring Turkey Special Permit Hunting Areas

Listed below are areas and specific hunting districts where limited numbers of Spring Turkey Gobbler Permits are being made available to sportsmen through a drawing. All permit quotas listed are tentative and will be finalized at the March Fish and Game Commission Meeting.

Successful applicants are authorized to use their Special Spring Turkey Gobbler Permit, in conjunction with their Spring Turkey License, to hunt in an area that is otherwise closed to spring turkey hunters.

The Special Spring Turkey Gobbler Permit allows the sportsman to hunt in the described area, or specific hunting district, during the time specified on the permit.

Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 1991, to be eligible for the drawing. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid spring season turkey license before hunting.

West and East Clark Fork and Flathead Valley areas:

A total of 65 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for the West Clark Fork. (Area A)

A total of 20 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for the East Clark Fork. (Area B)

A total of 100 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for the Flathead Valley. (Area C)

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, 1991 conservation license number and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P.O. Box 67, Kalispell, Montana 59901.

Deer/elk hunting districts 200, 201, and 202 in their entirety; Deer/elk hunting district 291 in its entirety; a portion of deer/elk hunting district 212; and Portions of Ravalli and Missoula counties:

A total of 15 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for Hunting Districts 200, 201 and 202. (Area D)

A total of 5 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for Hunting District 291. (Area E)

A total of 25 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for portions of Ravalli and Missoula counties. (Area F)

A total of 5 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for a portion of Hunting District 212. (Area J)

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, 1991 conservation license number and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana 59801.

Portions of South Central Area Counties:

A total of 200 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for portions of Musselshell, Big Horn, Yellowstone and Golden Valley counties. (Area G)

A total of 25 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for portions of Carbon, Stillwater and Yellowstone counties. (Area K)

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, 1991 conservation license number and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, Montana 59105.

Portions of Toole and Pondera counties and Choteau County in its entirety:

A total of 8 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for portions of Toole and Pondera counties. (Area H)

A total of 30 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for Choteau County. (Area I)

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, 1991 conservation license number and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P.O. Box 6609, Great Falls, Montana 59406.

Safety and Stealth: Keys to a Successful Spring Turkey Hunt

Successful turkey hunting requires a high degree of skill. Wild turkeys are extremely wary and possess keen color vision and good hearing.

Those are the most challenging attributes sportsmen afield face while pursuing spring turkeys. Because of the wild turkey's cunning, sportsmen who forsake safe hunting measures in favor of elaborate camouflage and calling techniques can be inviting disaster. Both stealth and common sense should be used while afield for spring turkeys.

All spring turkey hunters should adhere to the following safety and hunting tips while afield this spring:

1. Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your outfit; this includes handkerchiefs, socks, etc.
2. Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; eliminating movement is a key to success, not concealment.
3. In areas of high sportsmen concentrations, wear blaze orange when walking to and from your vehicle; this is also a good idea when carrying a bird out of the woods.
4. Never presume that what you hear or what answers your call is a turkey.
5. When active and vocal songbirds, crows or your turkey falls silent—look out; chances are another hunter is moving in on your bird.
6. Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another sportsmen of your presence; remain still, cough or holler. A quick movement may be your last. Use common sense.
7. Use caution when stalking a gobbling tom. You may be stalking another hunter.

MONTANA IS TURKEY TERRITORY!

Your license dollars can improve turkey habitat!

**Contact your nearest Fish, Wildlife & Parks Office
with your ideas on how to make turkey habitat
projects in your area soar!!**

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the seasons, limits and regulations listed herein shall govern the 1991 Spring Turkey Hunting Season. These regulations are valid March 1, 1991, through February 29, 1992, and were adopted by the Fish and Game Commission on January 18, 1991.



**Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**